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 United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Soil  
Conservation  
Service

Montana  
Agricultural  
Experiment  
Station

Bozeman,  
Montana

# MONTANA WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

## Snowpack and Streamflow Forecasts as of March 1, 1985



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
SNOW SURVEY UNIT

Federal Bldg., Rm. 443  
10 East Babcock Street  
Bozeman, MT 59715

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### Administration proposes ending snow surveys

The President's 1986 budget request to Congress calls for termination of the Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecast activity within the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for fiscal policy reasons. If the President's budget request is enacted by Congress the snow survey program will be eliminated by the end of fiscal year 1986. This action would conclude over 50 years of federally coordinated and supported snow survey effort in the Western United States.

### Snowpack generally below average

The snowpack in the mountain headwaters in the northern half of the state is generally near average. The southern half has below to well below average snow cover.

The only area showing above average snowpack is the Bear Paw Mountains near Havre.

Well below average snow water content exists in the Rock, Flint, and Boulder Creek areas near Philipsburg, the Bridger Range near Bozeman and the lower Rock and lower Clark's Fork River areas near Red Lodge.

Snowpack is below average over most of the other drainages in the southern half of Montana.

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The Montana Water Supply Outlook is a publication of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. The SCS administers the Cooperative Snow Survey Program in cooperation with other federal, state and private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

The report is prepared by SCS, Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecast Staff, Room 443, Federal Building, 10 East Babcock, Bozeman, Montana.

### Montana streamflows may be below average

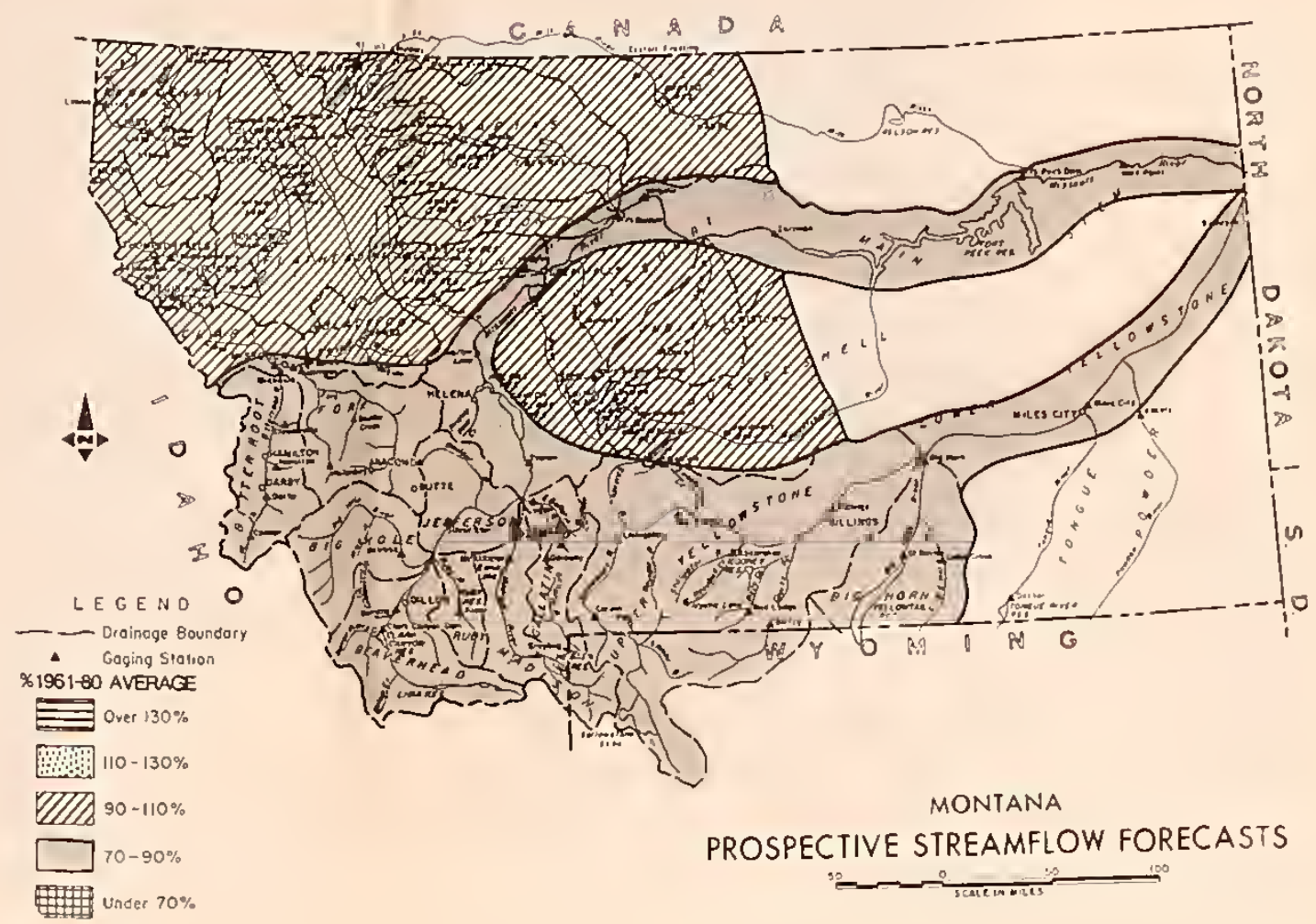
West of the Divide, all drainages above Missoula are expected to have below average runoff. The streams flowing into the Clark Fork downstream from Missoula and all of those in the Flathead and Kootenai River drainages should have near to a little below average streamflows.

East of the Divide, streams in the Missouri River headwaters and the main stem of the Missouri are forecast to have below average runoff this spring and summer.

Streamflows on tributaries north of the Missouri River and those in central Montana are predicted to be near to a little below average.

Runoff in the St. Mary's River basin should also be near average.

Below average runoff can be expected for all streams in the Yellowstone River drainage.





# Missouri River & Hudson Bay Drainages

## STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

BASIN, STREAM and/or FORECAST POINT	THIS YEAR				PAST RECORD			
	FORECAST				THOUSAND ACRES FEET			
	PERIOD	APRIL - SEPTEMBER	APRIL - JULY	APRIL - JULY	PERCENT OF AVERAGE	PERCENT OF AVERAGE	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE

RED ROCK RIVER near Monida (1)	92.0	89	244	103	86.0	89	212	96.3
BEAVERHEAD RIVER near Grant (2)	136	84	435	158	122	89	337	137
BEAVERHEAD RIVER at Barratts (2)	180	84		209	159	88		180
RUBY RIVER near Alder	87.5	86		101	73.5	86		84.6
BIG HOLE RIVER near Helrose	682	90		760	630	70		698
WILLIAM CREEK near Harrison	16.6	83		20.0	15.0	84		17.8
MADISON RIVER near Graveling (3)	415	84	575	496	330	85	440	388
MADISON RIVER near McAllister (4)	705	83	1,114	848	570	85	874	672
GALLATIN RIVER near Gateway	458	84		545	390	84		464
SUN OF EAST-WEST FORKS HYALITE CR. near Bozeman (5)	23.0	82		28.0	19.5	81		24.2
HYALITE CREEK near Bozeman (4)	37.2	83		44.8	32.0	83		38.7
GALLATIN RIVER at Logan	485	79		611	415	79		523
MISSOURI RIVER at Toston (7)	2,125	84	3,827	2,545	1,890	86	3,179	2,176
SHEEP CREEK near White Sulphur Springs	19.8	91		21.8	17.5	92		19.0
SUN RIVER at Gibson Dam (8)	535	94	336	570	490	94		522
BELT CREEK near Monarch	125	93		134	116	94		123
MISSOURI RIVER at Fort Benton (9)	3,300	83		3,980	2,980	86		3,468
TWO MEDICINE CREEK near Browning (10)	235	95		248	225	96		235
BADGER CREEK near Browning	121	93		130	105	93		113
INFLOW SHITF RESERVOIR near Dupuyer	81.5	94		86.7	71.0	95		74.7
CUT BANK CREEK at Cut Bank	109	96		114	100	93		108
MARIAS RIVER near Shelby	509	94		542	477	92		518
MISSOURI RIVER at Virgelle (11)	3,875	85		4,570	3,465	86		4,030
MISSOURI RIVER near Landusky (11)	4,295	86		4,980	3,770	86		4,383
NORTH FORK MUSSELSHELL RIVER near Delpine	6.0	94		6.4	5.1	95		5.4
SOUTH FORK MUSSELSHELL RIVER above Martinsdale	57.5	92		62.8	54.7	93		58.9
MISSOURI RIVER below Fort Peck Dam (11)	4,200	85		4,961	3,810	86		4,428
MILK RIVER at Eastern Crossing (March-Sept.)	103	95		109				
MILK RIVER at Eastern Crossing (12) (March-Sept.)	272	98		279				
INFLOW LAKE SAKAKAWA, ND (11)	10,715	84		12,755	10,500	86		12,239

### SASKATCHEWAN RIVER BASIN

SWIFTCURRENT CREEK at Sherburne (13)	130	102	102	128	113	101	87.4	112
ST. MARY'S RIVER near Babb (13)	490	101		497	415	100		416

- (1) Adjusted for storage in Lima Reservoir.
- (2) Adjusted for storage in Lima and Clark Canyon Reservoirs.
- (3) Adjusted for storage in Hebgen Lake.
- (4) Adjusted for storage in Hebgen Lake and Ennis Lake.
- (5) Sum of West Fork Hyalite Creek and East Fork Hyalite Creek above the Reservoir.
- (6) Adjusted for storage in Middle Creek Reservoir.
- (7) Adjusted for storage in Lima, Hebgen, Ennis & Clark Canyon Reservoirs.
- (8) Adjusted for storage in Gibsons Reservoir & diversions.
- (9) Adjusted for storage in Lima, Clark Canyon, Hebgen, Ennis, Gibsons, Plough, Willow Creek & Canyon Ferry Reservoirs.
- (10) Adjusted for storage in Two Medicine Reservoir & diversions in Two Medicine Canal.
- (11) Adjusted for all upstream reservoirs.
- (12) Flow at Eastern Crossing minus St. Mary's Canal.
- (13) Adjusted for storage in Lake Sherburne.

ALL FORECASTS PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

NOTE:  
According to the Bureau of Reclamation, although forecasts at this time appear to be near normal - the outlook for water supply is critical because of unusual low storage in Fresno, Nelson and Sherburne.

## WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

STREAM or AREA	Spring Season	Summer Season
Beaverhead	Avg	Fair
Ruby	Avg	Fair
Big Hole	Avg	Fair
Boulder	Avg	Fair
Jefferson	Avg	Fair
Madison	Avg	Fair
Gallatin	Avg	Fair
West-Side Missouri	Avg	Fair
Smith-Belt	Avg	Fair
Sun	Avg	Fair
Teton	Avg	Fair
Marias	Avg	Fair
Judith	Avg	Fair
Musselshell	Avg	Fair
Milk	Avg	Fair
Bear Paws	Exc	Avg
St. Mary's	Avg	Avg

## Missouri streamflow forecasts vary

April through September runoff is forecast 10 to 20 percent below average on all headwater streams above Canyon Ferry Reservoir. Streams flowing into the Missouri River downstream are predicted to have spring and summer runoff that is only 5 to 10 percent below average. Runoff in the St. Mary's and Milk River drainages is expected to be near average.

Irrigation water supplies could be a little short in the southwest corner but near average in most other areas.

Most reservoirs that were drawn down last year in the northern areas are expected to refill this spring.

## SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS

RIVER BASIN and/or SUBWATERSHED	Number of Gauging Stations	THIS YEAR'S SNOW WATER AS PERCENT OF
Beaverhead	31	98
Ruby	14	82
Big Hole	27	119
Boulder	15	131
Jefferson	87	104
Madison	35	104
Gallatin	24	89
Missouri Headwater	146	101
West-side Missouri		
(Toston-Cascade)	10	153
Smith-Belt-Arrow	11	122
Missouri Main-stem	21	132
Teton & Sun	11	261
Marias	6	184
Marias-Teton-Sun	17	216
Judith-Musselshell	17	109
Milk	10	185
Bear Paws	6	143
Missouri (Total)	211	113

Saskatchewan			
St. Mary's	6	178	101
Bow River in Alberta	10	104	83

## February snowfall approaches average

Snowfall was about average during February in the headwaters of drainages downstream from Canyon Ferry Reservoir and near to below average in most Missouri River headwater streams.

Presently, the season's snow accumulation is below average over most drainages in the Missouri River headwaters. Exceptions are a small area in the Big Hole and Boulder River drainages near Butte where near average snowpack exists. The Bridger Mountain Range, northeast of Bozeman, has well below average snowpack. Downstream from Canyon Ferry, most drainages have near average snowpack except for the Musselshell River headwaters which is below average. The Bear Paw Mountains, south of Havre, have well above average snowpack levels.

Snowfall activity seemed to increase near the end of February in southern parts of the state. Hopefully, this area will receive enough additional snowfall over the next couple of months to improve the present outlook. If not, most of the southern areas can look for deficient conditions this year.

# Yellowstone River Drainage

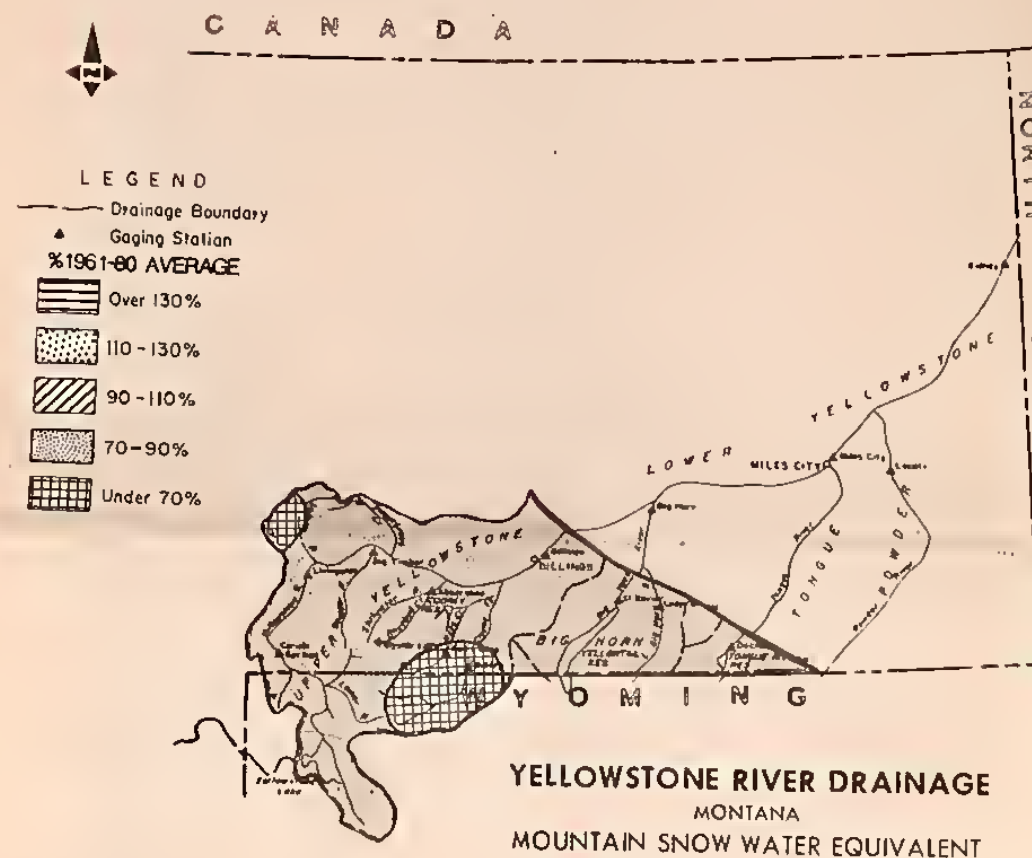
## STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

BASIN, STREAM and/or FORECAST POINT	THIS YEAR				PAST RECORD			
	FORECAST				THOUSAND ACRES FEET			
	PERIOD	APRIL - SEPTEMBER	APRIL - JULY	APRIL - JULY	PERCENT OF AVERAGE	PERCENT OF AVERAGE	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE

YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Corwin Springs	1,700	85	1,997	2,027	1,436	85	1,622	1,484
YELLOWSTONE RIVER near Livingston	2,000	84		2,379	1,660	84		1,969
POULDER RIVER at Big Timber	320	82		398	300	82		366
STILLWATER near Absarokee (1)	513	83		632	440	83		528
CLARK'S FORK RIVER near Belfry	500	80		628	445	79		563
ROCK CREEK near Red Lodge	91.0	85		115	75.0	85		88.1
INFLOW COONEY RESERVOIR near Boyd (2)	51.2	88		60.5	44.0	89		49.5
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Billings	3,700	84	4,262	4,516	3,180	83	3,594	3,833
BIGHORN RIVER near St. Xavier (3)	1,400	85	1,974	1,976	1,500	84	1,688	1,794
LITTLE BIGHORN RIVER near Hardin	100	88		182	140	86		162
TONGUE RIVER near Decker	200	84		269	204	84		244
YELLOWSTONE RIVER at Miles City (4)	5,400	83		6,787	4,845	82		5,906
POUNDER RIVER at Moorhead	200	76		263	185	76		243
YELLOWSTONE RIVER near Sidney (5)	6,100	82		7,518	5,365	82		6,544

- (1) Adjusted for storage in Mystic Lake.
- (2) Adjusted for storage in Cooney Reservoir.
- (3) Adjusted for storage in Buffalo Bill, Boysen, Bull Lake, Pilot Butte and Bighorn Reservoirs.
- (4) Adjusted for storage in Bull Lake, Buffalo Bill, Boysen, Pilot Butte, Bighorn and Tongue River Reservoirs.
- (5) Adjusted for reservoirs shown in (4) and diversions into the lower Yellowstone Canal.

ALL FORECASTS PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



## Low runoffs expected

Spring and summer streamflows are forecast to be 15 to 20 percent below average over most of the Yellowstone River drainage.

If weather patterns do not improve, some shortages of irrigation water supplies can be expected in mid- to late summer.

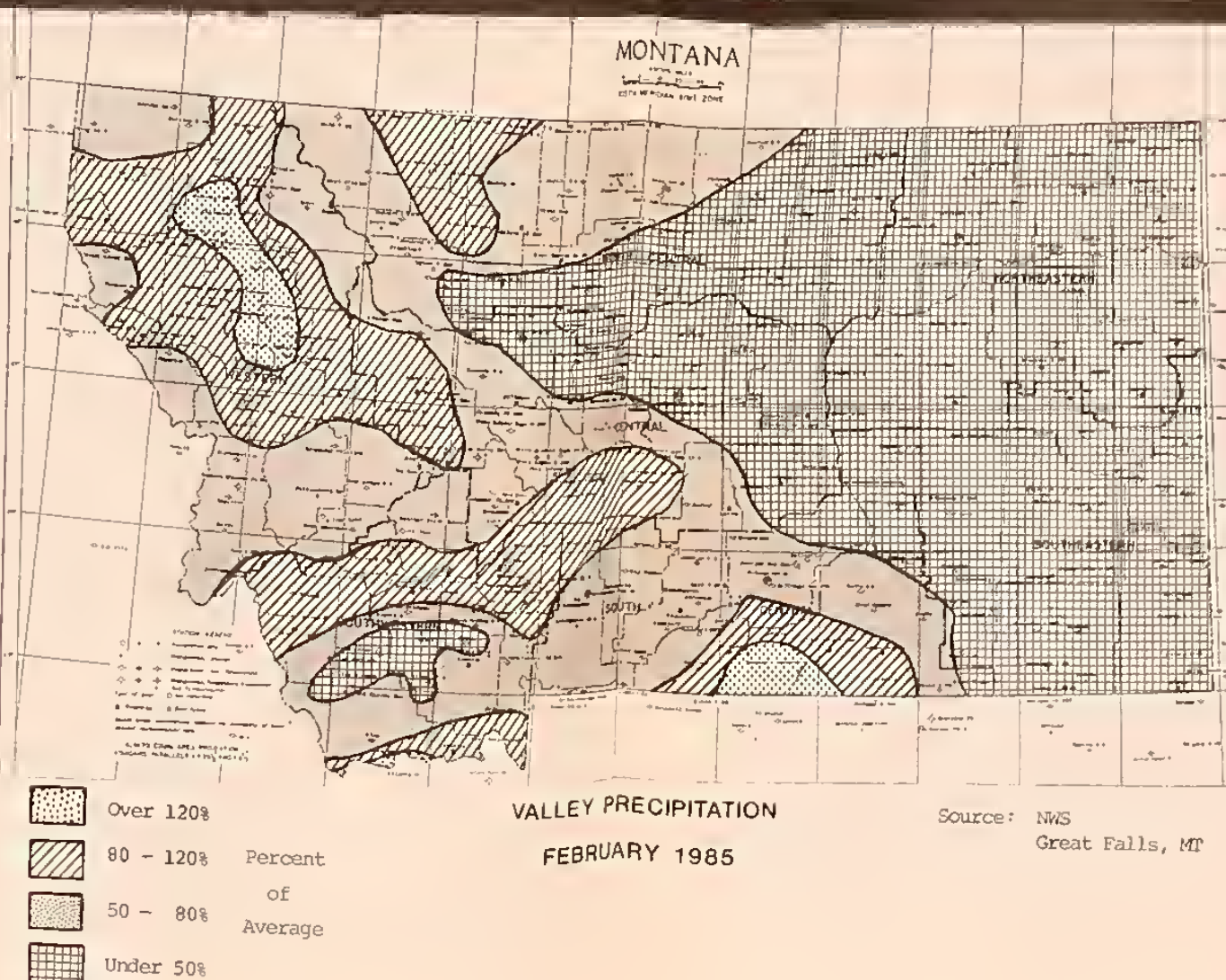
## SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS

RIVER BASIN and/or SUBWATERSHED	Number of Gauging Stations	THIS YEAR'S SNOW WATER AS PERCENT OF
Upper Yellowstone		
ab Livingston	20	106
Shields	10	81
Boulder & Stillwater	6	116
Rock Creek & Clark's Fork	16	104
Yellowstone (ab Bighorn River)	52	101
Bighorn/Wyoming	25	94
Little Bighorn	3	100
Tongue	7	109
Powder	4	86
Yellowstone (Total)	88	100

## Yellowstone snowpack remains below average

The mountain snowpack is generally below average throughout the Yellowstone drainage. Snowfall during February was near to a little below average across the headwaters but was not heavy enough to make up for last month's deficiencies.

Parts of the lower Rock Creek and lower Clark's Fork River drainages near Red Lodge still have well below average snow.



Source: NWS  
Great Falls, MT

## MISSOURI RIVER & HUDSON BAY DRAINAGES

### MOUNTAIN SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT



# SNOW SURVEY DATA

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-80
MONTANA						
ABUNDANCE LAKE	8800	2/24/85	54	15.5	13.4	17.6
AMBROSE	4480	2/28/85	41	10.8	8.2	11.8
ARCH FALLS	7350	2/26/85	39	9.0	9.4	10.7
ASHLEY DIVIDE	4820	3/01/85	32	8.2	3.3	6.9
ASHLEY LAKE	4000	3/01/85	27	6.2	3.3	6.3
BADGER PASS	6900	3/07/85	105	34.0	19.7	35.3
BADGER PASS BUTYL	6900	3/01/85	---	24.1	16.6	32.4
BALO EAGLE PEAK	5700	2/26/85	155	60.9	33.2	54.8
BALO RIDGE	7500	2/28/85	36	9.1	10.5	11.3
BANFIELD MOUNTAIN	5600	2/26/85	58	19.7	9.0	21.6
BANFIELD Mtn BUTYL	5600	3/01/85	---	16.6	8.6	17.0
BARKEE CREEK	5500	2/28/85	102	41.1	24.6	42.5
BARKEE MOUNTAIN	4600	2/28/85	95	36.3	14.5	33.4
BARKEE TRAIL	3800	2/28/85	37	11.3	2.5	9.6
BARKEE LAKES BUTYL	8250	3/01/85	---	11.4	8.9	13.1
BASIN CREEK	7180	2/26/85	30	7.2	4.7	6.7
BASIN CREEK METAL	7180	3/01/85	---	5.9	5.0	6.0
BASSO PEAK	5150	2/28/85	38	11.7	3.2	9.7
BEAGLE SPRINGS	4850	2/23/85	28	5.2	5.8	7.2
BEAGLE SPGS METAL	8850	3/01/85	---	6.4	6.5	6.5
BEAR BASIN	8150	2/28/85	51	13.7	16.0	18.8
BEAR PAW SKI AREA	5200	2/27/85	31	10.2	7.0	6.8
BEAVER LAKE	5900	3/07/85	68	19.5	10.4	21.0
BERRY MEADOW	7000	2/26/85	24	5.8	4.8	7.2
BIG CREEK	6750	3/06/85	109	37.4	29.4	39.1
BIG SKY	7700	2/27/85	47	12.3	12.6	13.5
BIG SKY MEADOW	6350	2/28/85	33	7.3	9.6	9.0
BIG SNOWY	7150	2/26/85	61	18.6	19.2	18.2
BLACK BEAR	7950	2/28/85	90	32.6	30.0	35.3
BLACK BEAR BUTYL	7950	3/01/85	---	28.2	25.8	31.6
BLACK PINE	7100	2/22/85	32	8.0	6.8	12.5
BLACK PINE BUTYL	7100	3/01/85	---	8.2	8.0	12.5
BLOODY OICK	7600	2/28/85	38	9.7	9.2	12.1
BLOODY OICK BUTYL	7550	3/01/85	---	9.4	5.4	10.7
BLUE LAKE	5900	3/07/85	80	25.0	11.9	23.7
BOTS DOTS	7750	2/28/85	27	6.9	5.9	6.6
BOULDER MOUNTAIN	7950	2/25/85	53	14.9	15.2	16.9
BOULDER Mtn BUTYL	7950	3/01/85	---	15.7	16.3	18.2
BOX CANYON METAL	6700	3/01/85	---	8.5	6.2	8.1
BRANNAN LAKES	8850	3/01/85	---	22.0	25.6	25.7
BRIDGER BOWL	7250	2/25/85	58	16.2	20.2	24.0
BRIDGER BOWL BUTYL	7250	2/25/85	---	14.2	17.8	22.0
BRISTON CREEK	3900	2/26/85	35	11.5	4.2	11.6
BRUSH CREEK TIMBER	5600	2/28/85	36	10.1	5.0	9.4
BULL MOUNTAIN	6000	2/28/85	24	5.8	4.1	5.2
CABIN CREEK	5200	2/25/85	32	7.6	1.1	6.8
CALL ROAD	8050	2/23/85	33	7.2	10.0	10.0
CALVERT CREEK	6430	2/27/85	35	8.2	6.6	10.5
CALVERT CREEK BUTYL	6430	3/01/85	---	6.7	4.9	8.8
CAMP MISERY	6400	2/26/85	125	45.2	37.6	42.5
CAMP SEWLA	7890	2/28/85	20	4.9	4.7	5.1

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-80
CARROT BASIN	9000	2/27/85	76	23.0	26.0	31.7
CARROT BASIN BUTYL	9000	3/01/85	---	18.0	21.2	24.0
CARTER CREEK	7400	3/01/85	16	3.3	4.8	3.8
CASNE CREEK METAL	7800	3/01/85	---	7.2	7.4	6.8
CEGAR GROVE	3760	2/26/85	48	16.0	5.9	11.4
CHESSMAN RESERVOIR	6200	2/25/85	23	4.4	1.0	3.5
CHICKEN CREEK	4060	2/27/85	48	15.0	8.5	15.0
CLOVER MEADOW	8600	2/23/85	45	11.0	13.2	14.6
CLOVER MEADOW METAL	8800	3/01/85	---	11.9	15.6	13.5
COLE CREEK	7850	2/26/85	41	10.1	13.0	14.3
COLLE CREEK BUTYL	7850	3/01/85	---	9.2	12.5	12.6
COLEY CREEK	6300	2/27/85	28	5.4	5.0	7.8
COMBINATION	5600	2/22/85	16	3.0	3.6	5.7
COMBINATION BUTYL	5600	3/01/85	---	4.0	3.7	5.3
COOKE STATION	8150	2/27/85	50	14.1	11.6	17.8
COPPER BOTTOM	5200	3/05/85	55	14.7	5.4	11.0
COPPER BOTTOM BUTYL	5200	3/01/85	---	12.1	6.0	11.5
COPPER CAMP BUTYL	6950	3/01/85	---	26.9	13.8	33.6
COPPER CAMP	6950	3/05/85	77	25.4	12.9	28.3
COPPER CREEK	5700	3/05/85	54	15.4	5.2	14.3
COPPER LAKE CREEK	6100	3/05/85	70	22.8	9.4	22.4
COPPER MOUNTAIN	7700	2/25/85	36	8.4	7.6	9.7
COTTONWOOD CREEK	6400	2/27/85	34	8.3	5.3	6.8
COYOTE HILL	4200	3/01/85	40	11.0	6.8	10.0
CREVICE LAKE	8400	2/28/85	35	8.4	7.3	9.7
CRYSTAL LAKE	6050	2/26/85	49	12.7	12.2	12.2
CRYSTAL LAKE METAL	6050	3/01/85	---	13.2	11.7	11.0
DAO CREEK LAKE	8400	2/23/85	39	9.3	9.6	11.5
DAISY PEAK	7600	2/28/85	34	7.9	6.2	10.1
DAILY CREEK	5780	2/28/85	36	10.0	7.9	10.6
DAILY CREEK METAL	5780	3/01/85	---	7.8	3.5	11.4
DARKHORSE LAKE	8600	2/24/85	61	21.3	17.8	22.6
DARKHORSE LK. METAL	8700	3/01/85	---	15.8	17.0	19.6
DAVIS CREEK	5400	2/26/85	59	19.5	12.6	22.5
DEADMAN CREEK	6450	3/04/85	46	11.2	7.3	10.6
DEADMAN CREEK BUTYL	6450	3/01/85	---	9.5	6.6	9.8
DESERT MOUNTAIN	5600	2/25/85	50	14.3	8.9	14.2
DEVILS SLIDE	8100	2/26/85	56	14.8	17.1	19.4
DISCOVERY BASIN	7050	3/01/85	34	7.7	7.4	9.2
DIVIDE	7800	2/23/85	30	6.2	9.6	9.9
DIVIDE BUTYL	7800	3/01/85	---	6.4	8.6	9.2
DTX HILL	6400	2/24/85	35	9.6	6.8	10.7
DUPUYER CREEK BUTYL	5750	3/01/85	---	10.2	3.7	---
EAST FORK R.S.	5400	2/25/85	25	5.6	4.7	6.6
EL DORADO MINE	7800	2/20/85	51	12.5	14.0	18.2
ELK HORN SPRINGS	7800	2/24/85	31	7.6	4.8	8.4
ELK PEAK	8000	2/27/85	46	11.7	11.8	14.7
EMERY CREEK	4350	2/25/85	57	17.6	10.2	14.0
EMERY CREEK BUTYL	4350	3/01/85	---	16.7	9.2	14.0
FATTY CREEK	5500	3/06/85	76	24.2	16.5	20.9
FISH CREEK	8000	2/26/85	32	7.6	5.2	8.2
FISHER CREEK	9100	2/27/85	82	26.9	23.5	34.1
FISHER CREEK BUTYL	9100	3/01/85	---	24.1	22.1	31.6
FIVE-BULL	5700	3/08/85	32	8.2	2	6.5
FLATTOP Mtn BUTYL	6300	3/01/85	---	39.5	28.7	43.0
FLEECER RIDGE	7500	2/28/85	34	8.8	6.3	9.9
FOOLHEN	8280	2/24/85	51	14.0	8.6	15.0

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-80
FOUR MILE	6900	3/01/85	32	7.3	5.8	7.4
FOURTH OF JULY	3450	3/01/85	38	12.5	4.4	9.0
FRED BURR PASS	8000	2/26/85	55	14.7	17.6	22.1
FREIGHT CREEK	6000	3/07/85	58	14.2	6.1	13.8
FRIODAY HILL	4620	2/28/85	63	18.6	10.8	22.9
FRODNER MEADOWS	6480	2/25/85	27	5.7	4.2	7.1
FRODNER MOWS BUTYL	6480	3/01/85	---	6.5	5.3	6.7
GARVER CREEK	4250	2/26/85	37	11.2	5.0	10.7
GARVER CREEK BUTYL	4250	3/01/85	---	9.5	4.5	9.5
GIBBONS PASS	7100	2/25/85	62	18.3	17.0	20.7
GOLT MOUNTAIN	7000	2/26/85	39	10.0	3.5	10.2
GOLD CREEK LAKE	7200	2/28/85	39	9.2	9.8	13.5
GOLD STONE	8100	2/28/85	44	12.3	12.0	15.1
GRASSHOPPER	7000	2/27/85	26	5.6	4.1	5.3
GRAVE CREEK	4300	2/26/85	55	17.0	8.9	16.7
GRAVE CRK BUTYL	4300	3/01/85	---	16.2	9.4	16.4
GRIFFIN CREEK DIVIDE	5150	2/28/85	40	12.1	5.0	11.1
GUNSLIGHT LAKE	6300	3/07/85	98	35.0	24.5	36.9
HARD CREEK	5030	2/28/85	44	13.1	6.8	12.7
HARD CREEK BUTYL	5030	3/01/85	---	11.1	5.7	13.6
HAWKINS LAKE	6450	2/26/85	69	25.4	15.9	28.2
HAWKINS LAKE BUTYL	6450	3/01/85	---	20.7	13.2	26.8
HEART LAKE TRAIL	4800	3/01/85	69	22.8	13.2	20.3
HERGEN OAK	6550	2/26/85	38	8.9	10.8	11.3
HELL ROARING DIVIDE	5770	2/27/85	78	26.2	20.5	28.4
HERRIG JUNCTION	4850	2/27/85	69	22.7	14.4	24.4
HOLBROOK	4530	2/28/85	35	9.2	4.5	9.6
HODD MEADOW	6600	2/26/85	35	7.9	8.0	9.6
HODDOD BASIN	6050	3/01/85	117	48.2	33.2	44.6
HODDOD BASIN BUTYL	6050	3/01/85	---	38.2	26.3	40.0
HODDOD CREEK	5900	3/01/85	108	42.1	30.0	41.8
INTERDEPENDENCE	7850	3/04/85	60	15.9	11.1	16.8
INTERGAARD	6450	2/26/85	25	5.2	4.2	7.6
JANNKE LAKE TRAIL	7200	2/28/85	34	7.6	6.6	8.9
JOHNSON PARK	6450	2/28/85	22	5.0	3.2	7.2
KEELER CREEK	3300	2/26/85	54	18.6	5.8	14.3
KINGS HILL	7500	3/04/85	58	14.4	9.0	12.2
KISHENEH	3890	3/01/85	34	8.0	3.3	8.3
KISHENEH CAMP	3720	2/27/85	12	2.6	2.2	2.1
KRAFT CREEK METAL	4750	3/01/85	---	12.9	9.2	12.5
LAKE CREEK	6100	2/23/85	29	6.0	7.8	8.0
LAKEVIEW CANYON	6930	2/25/85	33	7.9	6.8	10.4
LAKEVIEW RIDGE	7400	2/25/85	32	7.8	7.0	9.3
LAKEVIEW RIDG. METAL	7400	3/01/85	---	10.5	8.6	10.7
LEMMT PASS	7480	2/24/85	30	6.0	6.1	8.0
LEMMT PASS	8100	2/24/85	33	7.5	7.2	8.9
LEMMT RIDGE BUTYL	8100	3/01/85	---	7.4	5.1	9.0
LICK CREEK	6860	2/27/85	39	8.4	8.7	8.8
LICK CREEK BUTYL	6860	3/01/85	---	7.8	7.1	7.7
LITTLE PARK	7400	2/28/85	43	10.4	12.2	14.4
LOGAN CREEK	4300	2/28/85	30	7.4	3.3	7.4
LONE MOUNTAIN	8880	2/27/85	59	17.4	18.4	19.6
LOST HORSE	5940	2/27/85	76	26.7	21.8	29.5
LOST SOUL	4800	2/26/85	49	15.2	6.4	15.0
LOWER TWIN	7900	3/01/85	57	18.1	16.1	18.6
LOWER TWIN METAL	7900	3/01/85	---	12.4	14.4	17.1
LUBRECNT FLUME	4680	2/27/85	18	4.2	1.6	5.8
LUBRECNT FLUME BUTYL	4680	3/01/85	---	4.7	3.2	5.2
LUBRECNT FOREST NO 3	5450	2/27/85	21	4.3	3.6	7.0

SNOW COURSE	ELEVATION	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 1961-80
LUBRECNT FOREST NO 4	4650	2/27/85	10	2.3	1.2	3.5
LUBRECNT FOREST NO 6	4040	2/28/85	11	3.0	.9	4.2
LUBRECNT NYORPLOT	4200	2/27/85	16	4.0	3.0	6.6
MAISON PLATEAU	7750	2/28/85	60	19.9	15.3	19.4
MAISON PLT BUTYL	7750	2/28/85	---	18.1	14.1	20.6
MANY GLACIER	4900	3/01/85	63	20.6	9.6	18.8
MANY GLACIER BUTYL	4900	3/01/85	---	16.7	9.2	17.9
MARIAS PASS	5250	3/01/85	58	19.0	7.2	15.9
MAYNARD CREEK	6210	2/25/85	40	9.5	10.7	14.1
MAYNARD CREEK BUTYL	6210	2/25/85	---	6.6	7.8	10.5
MOOLE HILL CREEK	7850	3/01/85	---	13.0 E	14.9	14.5
MOORE CREEK	7500	2/27/85	40	8.7	---	11.7
MINERAL CREEK	4000	2/27/85	60	17.1	9.8	17.1
MONUMENT PEAK	8850	3/04/85	67	17.5	17.3	23.9
MONUMENT PEAK METAL	8850	3/01/85	---	13.7	12.7	19.8
MOULTON RESERVOIR	6850	2/28/85	28	6.0	5.1	6.7
MOUNT LOCKHART	6400	2/27/85	67	20.2	10.6	20.8
MT LOCKHART BUTYL	6400	3/01/85	---	17.1	9.6	17.0
MUO LAKE	7650	2/26/85	52	15.1	11.4	18.0
MULE CREEK	8300	2/24/85	42	11.3	8.8	11.3
MULE CREEK METAL	8300	3/01/85	---	10.8	9.3	11.4
NEVADA CREEK	4480	3/05/85	52	13.1	6.7	11.1
NEVADA CREEK METAL	4480	3/01/85	---	12.2	6.0	10.7
NEW WORLD	6900	2/25/85	50	11.0	11.4	13.0
NEWTON MOUNTAIN	5600	2/28/85	87	34.6	20.4	33.7
NEZ PERCE CAMP	5650	2/24/85	44	12.6	11.4	13.7
NEZ PERCE CMP BUTYL	5650	3/01/85	---	11.9	11.1	13.6
NEZ PERCE CREEK	6400	2/25/85	24	3.8	4.3	6.6
NEZ PERCE PASS	6570	2/24/85	46	13.4	14.0	15.4
NEZ PERCE PASS	6040	2/25/85	118	40.4	36.8	37.9
NOISTY BASIN	6040	3/01/85	---	35.1	30.9	33.1
NORTH FORK ELK CREEK	6250	2/27/85	39	10.5	6.3	11.0
NORTH FORK ELK CRK BUTYL	6250	3/01/85	---	9.7	6.7	10.5
NORTH FORK JOCKO	6330	3/06/85	105	33.8	31.6	40.8
NORTH MEADOW	7500	3/01/85	27	6.4	5.8	7.2
NORTHEAST ENTRANCE	7350	2/28/85	25	6.2	5.9	9.0
N.E. ENTRANCE BUTYL	7350	3/01/85	---	6.3	5.7	8.8
NOTCH	8500	2/23/85	38	8.8	15.6	13.6
NOYAH PARK	7150	2/24/85	45	13.3	11.4	15.4
PETERSON MEADOWS	7200	2/25/85	34	8.0	6.2	9.0
PETERSON MOW BUTYL	7200	2/25/85	---	7.7	6.4	8.7
POCKFOOT CREEK	6650	2/25/85	34	8.2	7.2	11.5
POCKFOOT CRK METAL	6650	3/01/85	---	9.4	6.5	10.2
POKE CREEK BUTYL	5930	3/01/85	---	25.1	12.9	24.3
IPESTONE PASS	7200	2/25/85	21	4.6	3.0	4.4
PLACER BASIN METAL	8830	3/01/85	---	12.5	10.8	14.8
POORMAN CREEK	5100	2/26/85	94	35.5	19.0	31.7
POORMAN CRK BUTYL	5100	3/01/85	---	34.0	16.0	28.9
PORCUPINE	6500	2/28/85	21	5.4	6.0	6.8
PORCUPINE BUTYL	6500	3/01/85	---	5.7	6.1	6.6
POTOMACOUNT PARK	7150	2/26/85	44	10.3	11.1	13.6
PORO MOUNTAIN	6000	3/01/85	51	16.8	10.0	17.2
POTOP TOP	5260	2/28/85	75	27.2	15.3	28.1
POCK CREEK	5600	2/26/85	41	10.8	11.3	8.3
POCK CREEK MEADOW	8160	2/26/85	55	13.2	13.8	18.7
POCKER PEAK	8000	2/26/85	42	10.4	8.3	13.3
POCKER PEAK BUTYL	8000	3/01/85	---	10.2	6.9	12.6



# Columbia River Drainage

## STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

BASIN, STREAM MILE or FORECAST POINT	THIS YEAR				PAST RECORD				THIS YEAR				PAST RECORD			
	FORECAST		THOUSAND ACRES FEET		FORECAST		THOUSAND ACRES FEET		FORECAST		THOUSAND ACRES FEET		FORECAST		THOUSAND ACRES FEET	
	Period	April - September	Period	April - July	Period	April - June	Period	April - June	Period	April - June	Period	April - June	Period	April - June	Period	April - June
KOOTENAI RIVER below Libby Dam (1)	6,340	90	5,466	7,041	5,360	89	4,520	6,020								
FISHER RIVER near Libby	269	102		264	255	103		248								
FAK RIVER near Troy	470	90		523	450	90		500								
KOOTENAI RIVER at Leona (1)	7,990	93	6,534	8,602	6,900	92	5,596	7,498	5,565	92	4,282	6,051				
INFLOW HOULTON RESERVOIR at Butte (Million Gallons)					220	84	182	263	200	84	179	237				
WARM SPRINGS CREEK AT MEYERS OAK near Anaconda (2)	40.0	86		46.8	33.0	86		37.8								
FLINT CREEK near Southern Cross (3)	15.4	84	26.3	18.3	13.0	84	21.3	15.4								
FLINT CREEK below Boulder Creek (4)	62.2	82		75.8	49.0	82		59.5								
INFLOW LOWER WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR near Hall (5)	11.8	75	11.6	15.7	11.2	74	10.2	14.9								
MOOLE FORK ROCK CREEK near Philipsburg	66.3	85		78.2	60.0	85		70.5								
NEVADA CREEK near Finn	20.1	87		23.0	18.6	87		21.3								
BLACKFOOT RIVER near Bonner	910	91		999	830	92		904	720	92		782				
CLARK FORK RIVER above Milltown (6)	685	84		816	595	84		708	500	84		597				
CLARK FORK RIVER above Missoula	1,595	87	1,565	1,815	1,425	88	1,360	1,612	1,220	89	880	1,379				
WEST FORK BITTERROOT RIVER near Conner (7)	155	87		178	145	88		164								
BITTERROOT RIVER near Oarby	512	88		580	475	89		532	419	90		464				
SKALKAGO CREEK near Hamilton	50.0	89		56.0	43.8	90		48.7								
BURNT FORK CREEK near Stevensville (8)	33.2	89		37.4	29.0	90		32.2								
BITTERROOT RIVER at Missoula (9)	1,350	90		1,504	1,245	90		1,384	1,070	90		1,191				
CLARK FORK RIVER below Missoula	2,945	89		3,319	2,670	89		2,996	2,290	89		2,570				
CLARK FORK RIVER at St. Regis	4,050	92	3,732	4,411	3,615	92	3,322	3,928	3,155	92	2,825	3,428				
NORTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER near Columbia Falls	1,790	94		1,913	1,625	94		1,732	1,380	94		1,471				
MOOLE FORK FLATHEAD RIVER near West Glacier	1,790	96	1,316	1,869	1,660	97	1,236	1,713	1,400	96	1,086	1,453				
SOUTH FORK FLATHEAD RIVER near Columbia Falls (10)	2,230	98	1,515	2,278	2,100	98	1,694	2,142	1,850	98	1,416	1,886				
FLATHEAD RIVER at Columbia Falls (10)	5,930	96	4,738	6,208	5,440	97	4,294	5,721	4,800	97	3,589	4,921				
SWAN RIVER near Big Fork	645	94		689	570	94		604								
FLATHEAD RIVER near Polson (11)	7,020	96	5,586	7,278	6,535	97	5,102	6,712	5,570	97	4,284	5,759				
CLARK FORK RIVER near Plains (11)	11,500	95	9,695	12,153	10,520	95	8,914	11,071	8,990	95	7,457	9,459				
THOMPSON RIVER near Thompson Falls	250	96		261	225	97		233								
PROSPECT CREEK at Thompson Falls	145	102		142	135	102		132								
CLARK FORK RIVER at Whitehorse Rapids (12)	12,900	95		13,575	11,735	95		12,351	10,050	95		10,570				

- (1) Adjusted for storage in Lake Kootenai.
- (2) Adjusted for storage in Silver Lake, diversions to and pumping from Georgetown Lake.
- (3) Adjusted for storage in Georgetown Lake, diversions from and pumping to Silver Lake.
- (4) Sun Flint Creek at Maxville and Boulder Creek at Maxville.
- (5) Sum of North Fork Lower Willow Creek near Hall and South Fork Lower Willow Creek near Hall.
- (6) Difference in observed flow Clark Fork above Missoula and Blackfoot near Bonner.
- (7) Adjusted for storage in Painted Rocks Reservoir.
- (8) Adjusted for diversion into Sunset Highline Canal.
- (9) Difference in observed flow Clark Fork above and below Missoula.
- (10) Adjusted for storage in Hungry Horse Reservoir.
- (11) Adjusted for storage in Hungry Horse Reservoir and Flathead Lake.
- (12) Adjusted for storage in Hungry Horse Reservoir, Flathead Lake and Noson Rapids Reservoir.

ALL FORECASTS PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

## Columbia streamflows a little below average

Streams in the Clark Fork River headwaters above Missoula are forecast to have 10 to 15 percent less runoff than average.

Flathead and Kootenai River tributaries should have runoff near to a little below average.

If current weather patterns continue, some shortages of irrigation water supplies can be expected in the Bitterroot, Blackfoot and Upper Clark Fork River areas.

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK		
STREAM or AREA	Forecast	
	Spring	Summer
Tobacco	178	AVG
Little Bitterroot	178	AVG
Mission Valley	178	AVG
Flint Creek	178	Fair
Upper Clark Fork	178	Fair
Nevada Creek	178	Fair
Blackfoot	178	AVG
West-side Bitterroot	178	Fair
East-side Bitterroot	178	Fair
Bitterroot River	178	Fair
Lower Clark Fork	178	AVG

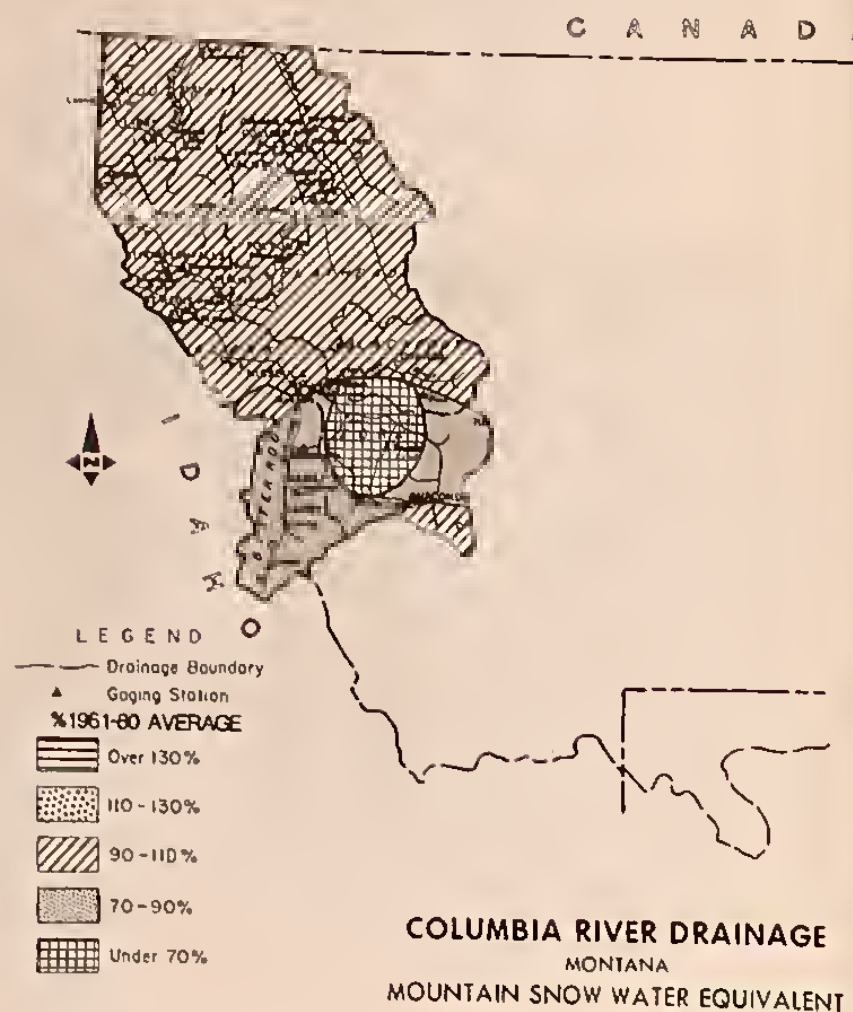
SUMMARY of SNOW MEASUREMENTS			
(COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS)			
RIVER BASIN	Number of	THIS YEAR'S SNOW	
SUB-WATERSHED	Courses	Water as Percent of	
	Average	Last Year	Average
East Kootenay/BC	25	135	90
Kootenai/Montana	31	184	100
Kootenai above Bonners Ferry	56	164	97
Little Bitterroot	9	214	101
N. Fk. Flathead	13	153	95
M. Fk. Flathead	12	167	97
S. Fk. Flathead	13	132	101
Swan	10	118	97
Flathead	56	142	98
Stillwater & Whitefish	9	161	93
Clark Fork above Blackfoot	42	123	82
Blackfoot	20	154	91
Upper Clark Fork above Missoula	62	133	85
Bitterroot	19	122	88
Lower Clark Fork below Missoula	19	165	105
Clark Fork (Total w/o Flathead)	100	141	93
Pend O'Reille (Clark Fork & Flathead)	156	142	95
Columbia (Pend O'Reille & Kootenai)	212	147	95

## February accumulation near average

Snow accumulation during February was near average in most of the Columbia drainage except for some of the more southern areas.

In general, the water of the snowpack is about average in all headwaters north of Missoula and a small tip of the Clark Fork near Butte. Most of the Bitterroot River drainage and the Clark Fork above Missoula have below average snowpack. A small area in the Flint Creek, Boulder Creek, Rock Creek headwaters has a much below average amount of snow water content.

Weather patterns seem to be changing toward a little more precipitation in the southern part of Montana. Hopefully, this condition will continue. If conditions do not improve over the next couple of months, the snowpack for the season will be below normal in most areas upstream from Missoula and some water shortages could develop.



COLUMBIA RIVER DRAINAGE  
MONTANA  
MOUNTAIN SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

# SNOW PILLOW DATA

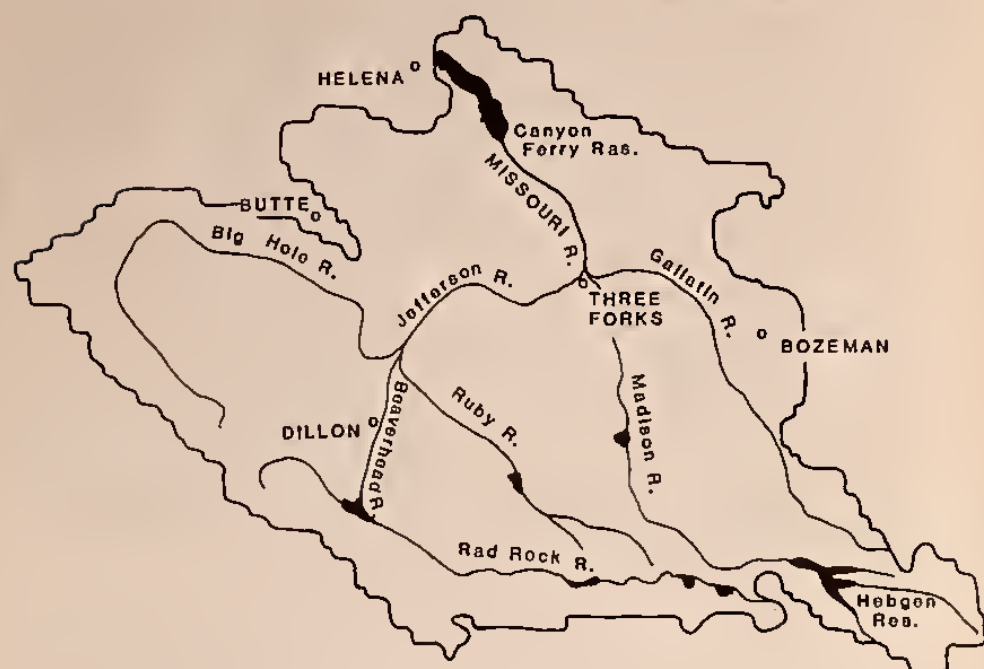






# SATELLITE SNOW COVER

DATA PROVIDED BY NOAA/NWS



Snow Covered Area

Scale 1:2,500,000

## MISSOURI RIVER BASIN Above Canyon Ferry Dam

DATE	PERCENT SNOW COVER	AVERAGE SNOWLINE ELEVATION IN FEET
February 25, 1985	100	3800



## AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS COOPERATING IN MONTANA SNOW SURVEYS

### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

#### Canada

Department of the Environment  
 Atmospheric Environment Service  
 Water Management Service  
 British Columbia Ministry of Environment  
 Inventory and Engineering Branch, Hydrology Section  
 Alberta Environment  
 Technical Services Division

#### Federal

Department of the Army - Corps of Engineers  
 Department of Agriculture - Forest Service  
 Department of Commerce - National Environmental Satellite Service  
 Department of Interior - National Weather Service  
 Department of Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs  
 Department of Interior - Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Department of Interior - Geological Survey  
 Department of Interior - National Park Service  
 Department of Interior - Bureau of Reclamation  
 Department of Energy - Bonneville Power Administration

### STATE AGENCIES

Montana Conservation Districts  
 Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
 Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
 Montana State University - Agricultural Experiment Station  
 University of Montana - School of Forestry

### PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

The Anaconda Company  
 Big Sky of Montana  
 Butte Water Company  
 Flathead Valley Community College  
 Montana Power Company  
 Pondera County Canal & Reservoir Company

Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for snow survey reports. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

## RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet) END OF MONTH February 28, 1985

BASIN OR STREAM	RESERVOIR	USABLE CAPACITY	USABLE STORAGE		
			THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE
COLUMBIA					
Kootenai	Koocanusa	5,748.2	1,885.0	2,789.0	1,948.0
Flathead	Hungry Horse	3,451.0	2,700.0	2,507.0	2,213.0
	Flathead Lake	1,791.0	746.8	787.4	934.1
	Camas (4)	45.2	17.0	29.5	21.0
	Mission Valley (B)	100.3	36.4	55.4	38.1
Clark Fork	Georgetown Lake	31.0	26.2	27.1	25.2
	Lower Willow Creek	4.9	0.3	3.3	1.6
	Nevada Creek	12.6	---	6.3	4.8
	Noxon Rapids	334.6	316.5	322.8	295.1
Bitterroot	Painted Rocks	31.7	---	---	16.1
	Como	34.9	8.8	23.9	12.6
MISSOURI					
Beaverhead	Lima	84.0	28.7	55.7	36.1
	Clark Canyon	257.2	147.9	171.8	141.2
Ruby	Ruby	38.8	27.8	27.8	26.7
Madison	Hebgen Lake	377.5	305.2	261.9	224.6
	Ennis Lake	41.0	32.5	31.2	35.7
Gallatin	Middle Creek	8.0	3.8	3.8	3.6
Missouri	Canyon Ferry	2,043.0	1,379.0	1,647.0	1,561.0
	Hauser & Helena	61.9	63.0	63.0	60.1
	Helena Valley	9.2	3.6	3.9	5.1
	Lake Helena	10.4	10.9	10.9	9.9
	Holter Lake	81.9	75.4	79.6	63.6
	Fort Peck Lake	18,910.0	15,570.0	15,900.0	14,830.0
Smith	Smith River	10.6	8.4	9.6	7.0
	Newlan Creek	12.4	9.7	8.6	9.2
Musselshell	Bair	7.0	0.5	3.2	4.7
	Martinsdale	23.1	5.7	14.2	9.5
	Deadman's Basin	72.2	---	---	46.3
Sun	Gibson	99.1	50.9	54.7	43.9
	Willow Creek	32.2	12.6	24.3	20.1
	Pishkun	32.0	18.5	19.4	17.8
Marias	Lower Two Medicine	11.9	---	---	7.0
	Four Horns	19.2	---	---	12.5
	Swift	30.0	9.2	13.1	15.2
	Lake Frances	111.9	23.2	47.2	70.1
Milk	Elwell (Tiber)	1,347.0	668.2	695.0	542.1
	Beaver Creek	3.5	0.9	3.1	1.7
	Fresno	127.2	75.1	24.6	58.5
	Nelson	66.8	12.3	39.1	38.7
HUDSON BAY					
St. Mary's	Lake Sherburne	64.3	33.3	35.2	21.9
YELLOWSTONE					
Stillwater	Mystic Lake	21.0	1.4	4.4	7.3
Clark's Fork	Cooney	27.4	19.2	17.1	14.6
Tongue	Tongue River	68.0	10.2	15.2	34.4
Bighorn	Bighorn Lake	1,356.0	854.9	839.0	590.4



Mountain streams will soon be opening up in preparation for spring runoff.